

AccessLetter

***Cambridge Commission for
Persons with Disabilities***

Bridging Communication Gaps Around the Workplace

One of the biggest barriers for jobseekers with disabilities, and for current employees with disabilities, often is communication. While clear and effective communication between employers and employees is essential in the modern workplace and occurs in many ways, navigating conventional communication channels can pose unique challenges for individuals with disabilities.

One of the most straightforward communication concerns arises out of a simple lack of understanding. Some employers decline to hire people with disabilities because they are unaware of an individual's potential. Rather than learn about the applicant's skills and capabilities, some employers focus only on the applicant's disability without considering their abilities.

For example, many individuals with disabilities have developed problem solving skills and strategies as part of managing their daily lives, which can be applied to the workplace. Conversely, some job seekers with disabilities, lacking work experience, may be unaware of the employer's expectations for proper workplace norms and behaviors.

(More on Communication, page 2)

CCPD Announces Employment Event on October 19

October is National Disability Employment Awareness Month. The Cambridge Commission for Persons with Disabilities recognizes this month annually with an event designed to explore current issues around employment for people with disabilities.



**Christine Griffin will be keynote
speaker at CCPD's employment
and disability event on
Wednesday, October 19 at 6 PM
at the Cambridge Public Library**

On Wednesday, October 19, from 6 to 8 PM, CCPD will present a program entitled "Communication Around the Workplace: Bridging Gaps between People with Disabilities and Employers" featuring Christine M. Griffin, as keynote speaker. The event will be at the Cambridge Public Library's Lecture Hall, 449 Broadway, Cambridge. A reception will take place from 6-6:30 PM at which light refreshments will be served.

Ms. Griffin is an expert on employment and disability issues. She was appointed Assistant Secretary for Disability Policies and Programs for the Massachusetts Executive Office of Health and Human Services in

August. Prior to that appointment, Ms. Griffin served in the Obama administration as Deputy Director of the U.S. Office of Personnel Management and was a Commissioner at the U.S. Equal Employment Opportunity Commission (EEOC) from 2005 until 2009. From 1996 to 2005, Ms. Griffin worked as Executive Director of the Disability Law Center in Boston. She served as an attorney advisor to the Vice Chair of the EEOC from 1995 to 1996.

Communication (cont. from page 1)

One particularly thorny communication problem for job applicants or employees with disabilities is the issue of disclosure -- under what circumstances should applicants or current employees tell employers about their disabilities? Understandably, many people with disabilities are reluctant to communicate this information for fear it may lead to discrimination -- not being hired, for example, or not being promoted because of a disability. But while jobseekers and employees with disabilities are entitled to confidentiality regarding private medical information, as for individuals without disabilities, they also must disclose certain details relevant to their disabilities if they need to request reasonable accommodations.

More communication dilemmas arise out of the rapidly evolving technology arena. While advances in computer hardware and software have led to an ever-widening array of adaptive technologies -- screen reader software for people who are blind and web-based remote sign language interpreter services, for example -- they have also led to new pitfalls. Many employers require applicants to fill out online job applications, but these online forms are not always accessible to people with communication-related disabilities.

As jobseekers and employees with disabilities grapple with these issues, new coalitions and strategies are being formed to find new solutions. Read below for a description of one such collaboration between three groups: Employment Now Coalition (ENC), Greater Boston Employment Collaborative (GBEC), and Work Without Limits.

Workshop on Retaining Benefits for Job Seekers with Disabilities

One of the most difficult obstacles facing job seekers with disabilities is the prospect of losing important health and financial benefits once they start working. Many people with disabilities have expressed fears such as:

- Suppose I find a job, but the employer-sponsored health plan doesn't cover the medical services I need because of my disability, and MassHealth terminates my benefits?
- Perhaps I can find part-time work, but then what if Social Security cuts my benefits, and my wages aren't enough to meet my daily living expenses?
- What if I start working, but the job doesn't work out -- won't it take me a long time to get my Medicaid and SSI restarted?

On Thursday, October 27, a workshop will be held for people with disabilities and service providers on retaining Social Security and MassHealth (Medicaid) benefits upon entering or reentering the workforce. Sponsored by the Consumer Committee of GBEC and ENC, this event is targeted primarily to consumers with disabilities or a lived experience of a mental health diagnosis. The workshop will take place at the Boston Public Library's Boston Room, located near the front entrance at 700 Boylston Street, Copley Square. The library is conveniently located not far from the Copley and Back Bay MBTA stops. Parking garages are also nearby. The program will run from 12:30 to 4:00 PM (registration starts at 12:30 and presentations begin at 1:00).

The primary objective of the workshop will be to assist individuals with disabilities to better understand the ins and outs of retaining Social Security and Mass Health benefits when considering entering or reentering the workplace. There will be three presentations, followed by question and answer and audience discussion. The presentations will be in the areas of: Social Security benefits, Plans to Achieve Self-Support (PASS), and MassHealth. Each expert presenter in these areas will be coupled with a now-employed consumer who will briefly recount his/her own experience retaining benefits. Light refreshments will be available.

Seating for this workshop is limited, and pre-registration (on a first-come, first-serve basis) is required. For more information, contact Kimberly Warsett, GBEC Communications and Outreach

Coordinator at (617) 399-3229 (voice), (617) 451-1496 (TTY) or <kwarsett@jvs-boston.org>. The registration deadline is October 20, and reasonable accommodation requests are due by October 13.

With support from Work Without Limits, GBEC brings together leading providers of competitive employment and rehabilitation services for individuals with disabilities to provide a comprehensive set of services. Also assisted by Work Without Limits, ENC is a cross-disability organization seeking to increase competitive employment of people with disabilities. Its goal is to reduce stigma and promote pro-employment, consumer-focused changes in the employment support and educational systems and other public and private sector policies and practices. You can learn more about GBEC at: <www.gbecollab.org>, about the ENC at: <www.employmentnowcoalition.org>, and about Work Without Limits at: <www.workwithoutlimits.org>.

New Accessible Taxicab Dispatcher

Starting August 1, 2011, there is a new toll-free phone number for accessible Cambridge taxicabs: **866-654-1003**. This number will be answered by a live dispatcher 24 hours a day, seven days a

week. Accessible Cambridge taxicabs charge the same rates as a standard sedan-type taxicab.

In July, the Cambridge License Commission



awarded a new management contract to Checker Cab Co. of Cambridge, to handle all accessible taxicab requests.

Accessible Cambridge Taxi (ACT) was established to ensure equal access to taxicab services for Cambridge customers with disabilities, especially those individuals who need wheelchair-accessible taxicab service.

Wally Nakhoul is the new manager of ACT, and is also the president of Checker Cab Co. "I'm serious about providing the best possible service [to customers with disabilities]" said Mr. Nakhoul. "I'm very committed," he said, "I want to serve the community... in a full capacity."

Upcoming Events of Interest to the Disability Community **(See end of Calendar for all weekly/recurring events)**

Now **Register for a Six-Week Therapeutic Group in Arlington for Adults who Have Developmental Disabilities as well as an Anxiety Disorder** – A six-week therapeutic group is forming for adults who have developmental disabilities as well as a diagnosed anxiety disorder. This group will address anxiety related issues that can be particularly challenging to individuals with William's Syndrome and other developmental disabilities and will examine various techniques to normalize and provide a reduction in anxiety and promote a healthier approach to dealing with everyday struggles. It will meet from 4:30-5:30pm each Tuesday from October 18 – November 29 (except for Nov. 22) in the 2nd Floor Conference Room at the Developmental Disabilities Services Arlington Office, 20 Academy Street. The group facilitator is a STRATTUS behavioral health clinician, experienced in working with individuals with Developmental Disabilities and with Anxiety Disorders. MassHealth and Medicare are accepted, and the self-pay fee is \$20 per session. Registration is required. If interested, please contact Kim Tamaren at STRATTUS at 781-302-4771.

- Now to Oct. 14 **Apply for the 2012 Barbara Wilensky Gopen Memorial Fellowship** – The Gopen Fellowship, which is sponsored by the Massachusetts Developmental Disabilities Network, Institute for Community Inclusion (ICI), Massachusetts Developmental Disabilities Council (MDDC), Eunice Kennedy Shriver Center and Disability Law Center, is an opportunity for a person with a developmental disability or a family member to spend a year gaining knowledge and professional work experience in the disabilities field. The Gopen Fellow works 20 hours per week on a self-designed project of interest. The Fellow works primarily at ICI in Boston, and spends one day per month at the MDDC in Quincy. The application deadline is October 14. Interviews will be conducted in November and the Fellowship begins in January, 2012. For more information, see <www.mass.gov/mddc> or <www.communityinclusion.org/project.php?project_id=37> or contact David Helm at ICI by e-mail <David.helm@childrens.harvard.edu> or 857-218-4327 (voice).
- Now to Oct.19 **Register to Vote** – Voter registration forms for the upcoming Cambridge municipal elections (Nov.8) must be received by the Cambridge Election Commission, 51 Inman Street, 1st Floor, Cambridge, MA 02139 or postmarked by October 19. The voter registration form may be downloaded at <www.cambridgema.gov/election>. Residents may contact the Cambridge Election Commission with questions at <elections2@cambridgema.gov> or 617-349-4361.
- Oct. 3 **Hopeless No More: A Close Look at the Most Successful Mental Health Recovery Programs** – In celebration of Mental Health Awareness Week, the Cambridge Middlesex Chapter of National Alliance on Mental Illness (NAMI) presents this event, led by acclaimed author and journalist Pete Earley. A Pulitzer Prize finalist for his book, *CRAZY: A Father's Search Through America's Mental Health Madness*, and the author of 12 other books, Earley has visited 46 states and toured more than 100 programs in search of the best, including Housing First, ACT teams, Crisis Intervention Training, Mental Health Courts and Peer to Peer support. He will also speak about how his son Mike finally was able to control the symptoms of his illness and become a successful peer-to-peer specialist. This event will be held from 6:30 – 8:30pm, with refreshments served from 6-6:30, in the Lecture Hall of the Cambridge Main Public Library, 449 Broadway. For more information, see <www.namicambridgемiddlesex.org>, e-mail <Jane@nami-cambridgемiddlesex.org> or call 617-491-3459.
- Oct. 3 **Public Workshop on THE RIDE's In-Person Assessment Initiative** – This is an opportunity for members of the public to learn about and comment on the MBTA's proposal to require in-person eligibility assessments for persons with disabilities applying for THE RIDE paratransit services. The meeting will be held from 3:30-6:00pm in 2nd Floor Conference Rooms 1, 2 & 3 at the State Transportation Building, 10 Park Plaza, Boston, and ASL, CART, and listening devices will be available. RSVP is strongly encouraged and picture ID is required for building entry. Please call 617-222-2405 (voice), 617-222-5415 (TTY) or e-mail <theride@mbta.com> for more information or to RSVP. More information may also be found online at <www.mbta.com/about_the_mbta/public_meetings>. Comments may also be submitted to the above e-mail or send to THE RIDE, Ten Park Plaza, Room 5750, Boston, MA 02110.
- Oct. 5 **Open Door Gallery Presents *How the Blind View Art*** – Artist Simon Hayhoe, a Fulbright Fellow from London and author of the monograph, *Arts, Culture and Blindness* and the autobiographical book, *Touching the Rock: An Experience of Blindness*, will introduce his research project on visually impaired people's understanding of exhibits at the Metropolitan Museum of Art, New York and the exhibits presented in their database of art works online. The artist will be joined by panelists Janet LaBreck, Commissioner, Massachusetts Commission for the Blind; Bill Henderson, retired Boston Public School principal; Kim Charlson, director of the Perkins Braille and Talking Book Library; and Carl Richardson, Massachusetts State House ADA Coordinator. This event is sponsored by VSA Massachusetts and will be held from 6-7:30pm at the Open Door Gallery, The NonProfit Center, 89 South Street #101,

Boston, MA 02111 (near MBTA South Station). Contact VSA for more information at 617-350-7713 (voice), 617-350-6536 (TTY), or 866-552-4796 (Videophone).

- Oct. 7 **Head Injury Community Services 8th Annual Conference: *Functional Strategies for Independent Living*** – Head Injury Community Services is hosting its 8th Annual Conference at Florian Hall (55 Hallet St., Dorchester, MA) on Thursday, Oct. 7 from 10:00am-2:00pm. This year's conference will feature guest speaker, Suzanne Doswell, CBIST, Manager BIA-MA Western Regional Office, who will be presenting on "Real Strategies for Living with a Brain Injury". For more information on this conference or to RSVP, please contact Justin Ruggiero at <jruggiero@neurorehabmgt.com> or 617-847-4987, ext. 207, or go to <www.neurorehabmgt.com>.
- Oct. 10 **FREE Community Open House at the Museum of Fine Arts (MFA) in Boston** – The MFA will be open to the public for FREE from 10am-4:45pm, with inclusive activities for all ages and abilities. Blind and low vision visitors can use the Museum's new handheld multimedia guide free – with more than 100 audio described stops in the Art of Americas Wing and Linde Family Wing for Contemporary Art. An Access Volunteer will be available for demonstrations. The MFA is located at 465 Huntington Avenue in Boston, and is accessible by the Green line "E" train to the "Museum of Fine Arts" stop, or the Orange line train to the "Ruggles" stop. For more information or to pre-register, contact Valarie Burrows, Accessibility Coordinator, at 617-369-3302 or <vburrows@mfa.org>.
- Oct. 13 **Cambridge Commission for Persons with Disabilities (CCPD) Monthly Meeting** – meets in the 2nd floor conference room at 51 Inman Street, Cambridge from 5:30pm-7pm on the 2nd Thursday of each month, unless a holiday, with opportunity for public comment. Call 617-349-4692 (voice) or 617-492-0235 (TTY) or e-mail <kthurman@cambridgema.gov> for more information or to request accommodations.
- Oct. 19 **CCPD Event – "Bridging Communication Gaps around the Workplace"** – featuring keynote speaker Christine Griffin, Cambridge Main Public Library, 449 Broadway, 6 PM to 8 PM (see page 1 for of this issue for more information).
- Oct. 19 **AccessAbility Fair -- MGH Celebrates Disability Awareness Month** -- come and learn about adaptive equipment & technology, "know your body -- know yourself", sporting activities, equipment demos, and hospital & community resources. Massachusetts General Hospital, Bulfinch Tent, Boston, 10 AM to 4 PM. For more information, contact <mghaccessibility@partners.org>.
- Oct. 27 **Workshop on Retaining Social Security and MassHealth Benefits Upon Getting a Job** – Boston Public Library, 12:30 PM to 4 PM, advance registration required (see page 2 of this issue for more information).
- Oct. 27 **Premier of *LIVES WORTH LIVING* on the PBS Series *Independent Lens*** – While there are close to 50 million Americans living with disabilities, *Lives Worth Living* is the first television history of their decades-long struggle for equal rights. Produced and directed by Eric Neudel, *Lives Worth Living* is a window into a world inhabited by people with an unwavering determination to live their lives like everyone else, and a look back into a past when millions of Americans lived without access to schools, apartment buildings, and public transportation – a way of life unimaginable today. *Lives Worth Living* premieres on the Emmy® Award-winning PBS series *Independent Lens*, on Thursday, October 27, 2011 at 10 PM. For more information on this film, or to check your local PBS listings, go to <www.pbs.org/independentlens>.
- Nov. 8 **Election Day** – Don't forget to exercise your right to vote! Not sure where to go or who is on your ballot? See <www.wheredoivotema.org>. Cambridge residents may also contact the Cambridge

Election Commission at <elections2@cambridgema.gov> or 617-349-4361. Cambridge polls will be open from 7am to 8pm.

- Nov. 10 **Cambridge Commission for Persons with Disabilities (CCPD) Monthly Meeting** – meets in the 2nd floor conference room at 51 Inman Street, Cambridge from 5:30pm-7pm on the 2nd Thursday of each month, unless a holiday, with opportunity for public comment. Call 617-349-4692 (voice) or 617-492-0235 (TTY) or e-mail <kthurman@cambridgema.gov> for more information or to request accommodations.
- Nov. 15 **FREE Joining Voices Conference in Shrewsbury for Families Raising Children and Youth with Disabilities** – Offered by the Massachusetts Family-to-Family Health Information Center, this annual conference is for families raising children and youth with physical, intellectual, mental, behavioral, emotional, and other special health care needs. State Representative Denise C. Garlick, RN will present this year's keynote presentation: "The Unplanned Journey" and workshops will include information about fostering friendships, assistive technology, supporting children with mental health needs in school, taking care of yourself, the MassHealth Disability Determination process, and transition. This conference will be held from 9am to 3pm at the Hoagland-Pincus Conference Center, 222 Maple Ave, Shrewsbury. Although free, pre-registration is required by October 28th. For more information, including directions, or to register, see <www.massfamilyvoices.org>, e-mail <massfv@fcsn.org> or call Beth or Bonnie at 1-800-331-0688, ext. 301.

Weekly & Recurring Events

Ongoing

Injured Worker Support Meetings – Meetings are scheduled by appointment, often the 1st Wednesday of the month, 5:15 - 6:45 pm, but other times can be arranged. Meetings/appointments usually take place at 650 Beacon Street, Kenmore Square, Boston, 4th Floor Conference Room (close to the Kenmore Square MBTA station, a few doors to the right of Barnes & Noble). RSI Action volunteers answer questions and provide resources and support, including the opportunity to view their provider evaluation book, to people with RSIs (Repetitive Strain Injuries) or other workplace injuries. Discussion topics have included medical treatment, insurance/legal issues, and speech recognition software. For more information or to set up a meeting, call 617-247-6827, or go to <www.rsiaction.org>.

Mondays

NAMI Connection – a support group for adults with mental illness sponsored by the National Alliance on Mental Illness, meets every Monday, 1-2:30 p.m. at the Cambridge Somerville Recovery Learning Center, 153 South St, 2nd Floor in Somerville. The group is free and open to all who self-identify as having a mental illness, regardless of diagnosis. For more information, contact Janel Tan at 617-863-5388 or <tanj@vinfen.org>.

NAMI Support Group for Caregivers – Sponsored by the National Alliance on Mental Illness, this is a free support group for family members, friends and other caregivers of persons with mental illness that provides understanding, comfort, hope and help. This group meets on the 1st and 3rd Monday of each month at 7:30pm at the Cambridge Hospital Learning Center A, 3rd Floor, 1493 Cambridge Street. For more information, see <www.namimass.org/programs>, e-mail <helpline@namimass.org>, or call Elizabeth at 781-646-0397.

Tuesdays

Boston Voice Users – this group for people who use or are interested in using speech recognition or dictation software meets from 7:30 – 9:30 p.m. on the 2nd Tuesday of each month at MIT in Building 2, Rm.135. Members explore the developments, available tools and products, and best use of personal computer-based speech-recognition, and invite both commercial and noncommercial entities to present at meetings. To find out more about meetings and discussions go to <www.bostonvoiceusers.org>.

Wednesdays

Access Advisory Committee to the MBTA (AACT) meets 1 – 3 p.m. at the State Transportation Building, 10 Park Plaza, Boston, 2nd floor Conference Room #2 on the 4th Wednesday of each month. Call 617-973-7507 voice or 617-973-7089 TTY or e-mail <aact@ctps.org> for more information or to request interpreters. Security measures require proper ID for access to meetings.

Access to Art: Explorations – Offered by the Museum of Fine Arts (MFA) in Boston, this is an interactive, multidisciplinary evening workshop that meets at 6pm in the Huntington Avenue Entrance Lobby on the first Wednesday of the month for adults with disabilities, with a focus on cognitive disabilities and disabilities that may affect verbal communication. This program is always multi-sensory and does not require one to be verbal. This program was developed with the intention of having it be as inclusive as possible, thus friends and family members are welcome and encouraged to come and take part. This program is led by a facilitator with experience in both art and theatre and one or more musicians. This program is NOT for groups, and advance notice is appreciated. For more information, see <www.mfa.org> or contact Valarie Burrows at 617-369-3302 or Hannah Goodwin at 617-369-3189, or e-mail <access@mfa.org>.

Amputee Support Group – Offered by Spaulding Rehabilitation Hospital, all amputees, their family and friends are invited to socialize and discuss common areas of interest, including accessibility and resources, as well as to provide support and share coping strategies. Meets on the 1st Wednesday of each month from 1-2pm in Conference Room 8A on the 8th floor of Spaulding Rehab Hospital, 125 Nashua Street in Boston (adjacent to the TD Bank Garden; near MBTA North Station). For more information, see <www.spauldingrehab.org/events/supportgroupevents> or contact Sally Johnson, LICSW at 617-573-2539 (voice), 1-800-439-2370 (TTY), or by e-mail at <sejohnson@partners.org>.

DBSA-Boston (Depression Bipolar Support Alliance of Boston) Support Group meets every Wednesday evening, 7 - 9 p.m. at McLean Hospital in Belmont (de Marneffe Building, 1st floor lobby). Includes a lecture on the 2nd and 4th Wednesdays. Call 617-855-2795 or see <www.dbsaboston.org> for more information.

Feeling for Form Introductory Tour of MFA for blind & low vision visitors – The Museum of Fine Arts (MFA) in Boston offers a series of introductory one-on-one guided tours to the Museum and its collections for blind and low vision individuals who want to build a deeper relationship with the Museum. Each monthly session focuses on a different collection and includes wayfinding and verbal description of spaces. These tours are given on the 1st Sunday of the month at 10:30 am and the 3rd Wednesday at 6:30 pm. Individuals can attend one or more sessions, whichever interests them. Guided tours can also be scheduled at other times. Pre-registration is not required unless a visitor needs a sighted guide or other access accommodation. Contact Valerie Burrows at 617-369-3302 or <vburrows@mfa.org> to register. Call 617-369-3189 or e-mail <access@mfa.org> or go to <www.mfa.org> for more information. The MFA is located at 465 Huntington Avenue in Boston, and is accessible by the Green line “E” train to the “Museum of Fine Arts” stop, or the Orange line train to the “Ruggles” stop.

Free introductory tour of MFA in sign language & with assistive listening devices –A new monthly offering at the Museum of Fine Arts (MFA) in Boston for people who are Deaf or hard of hearing. These tours will be given at 6:30 pm on the 2nd Wednesday of each month. No pre-registration is required; meet at the Sharf Visitor Center in the MFA. For more information about accessible programs Valerie Burrows at 617-369-3302 voice, 617-267-9703 TTY or e-mail <access@mfa.org>.

Open Support Group for Adults on the Autism Spectrum – Meets on the 2nd Wednesday of each month, 7-8:30 pm at the offices of the Autism Association of New England (AANE), 85 Main St., Suite 101, Watertown, MA. Hosted by Jamie Freed; a \$5 donation is suggested. RSVP to 617-393-3824, x310 or <Jamie.Freed@aane.org>.

Rainbow Support Group for Adults with Developmental Disabilities – Funded by Massachusetts Advocates Standing Strong and the Department of Developmental Services, and hosted by Cambridge Family & Children's Service (CFCS), this group provides an opportunity for gay, lesbian, bisexual, transgender, and intersex individuals with developmental challenges to find their voice, be heard and supported in a safe, friendly environment. Participants must be at least 22 years old. Meets on the 3rd Wednesday of each month, 4:30 to 6:00pm at CFCS, 60 Gore Street, Cambridge, which is accessible by taking the MBTA Green Line to the Lechmere station. For more information, contact Peter Montalto at <pmontalto@helpfamilies.org> or 617-876-4210, x158.

Senior Support Group for Caregivers over 60 – meets on the 3rd Wednesday of each month at the Family Resource Center, 20 Gould Street in Reading. Share and learn with other seniors who have adult family members with developmental disabilities. For meeting times or more information, contact Judy SantaMaria at 781-942-4888, x4022 or <familysupport@theemarc.org>.

Spaulding Stroke Support Group – This community-based support group offered by Spaulding Rehabilitation Hospital (SRH) provides socialization and education for stroke survivors and meets on the 2nd Wednesday of the month from 3-4pm in Conference Room 8A on the 8th floor of SRH, 125 Nashua Street in Boston (adjacent to the TD Bank Garden; near MBTA North Station). For more information, see <www.spauldingrehab.org/events/supportgroupevents> or contact Karen Halfon at 617-573-7143 (voice), 1-800-439-2370 (TTY), or by e-mail at <khalfon@partners.org>.

Thursdays

Cambridge Commission for Persons with Disabilities (CCPD) Monthly Meeting – meets on the 2nd Thursday, unless a holiday, at 51 Inman Street, 2nd floor Conference Room, 5:30 to 7 p.m. with opportunity for public comment. Call 617-349-4692 (voice), 617-492-0235 (TTY) or e-mail <kthurman@cambridgema.gov> for more information or to request accommodations.

DBSA-Boston (Depression Bipolar Support Alliance of Boston) Support Group – meets at Mass. General Hospital every Thursday, 7 - 9 p.m. in the Schiff Conference Center Room, Suite 4A on the 4th floor in the Yawkey Building. Follow the signs. Meetings are free and open to public. For more information call 617-855-2795 or e-mail <mghgroup@dbsaboston.org>.

Spinal Cord Injury (SCI) Support Group – Offered by Spaulding Rehabilitation Hospital (SRH), this weekly support group, which meets every Thursday from 4-5pm, is for anyone affected by SCI, to help and inspire the newly injured through role models and peer mentors, and to support individuals and family members as they begin their post-injury journeys. This group is run by Dr. Chris Carter and is held in GBC Office at SRH on the 9th Floor at SRH (take elevator to 9th Floor, make a left off the elevator; second to last door on the right), 125 Nashua Street in Boston (adjacent to the TD Bank Garden; near MBTA North Station). For more information, see:

<www.spauldingrehab.org/events/supportgroupevents> or 617-573-2081 (voice), 1-800-439-2370 (TTY), or by e-mail at <sciboston@aol.com>.

Saturdays

Boston Acquired Brain Injury Support Group (BABIS) – The mission of this free support group is to provide a positive forum for peer socialization, hope and education for people with acquired brain injury, their family and friends. This group is held on the 1st Saturday of the month, from 10am-12pm at Spaulding Rehab Hospital, conference rooms 8A & AB, 125 Nashua Street, Boston. No registration required, just show up! For more information, call Sally Johnson, LICSW at 617-573-2539 (voice), 1-800-439-2370 (TTY), e-mail <babisgroup@hotmail.com>, or see <www.babis.info>.

Sundays

Feeling for Form Introductory Tour of MFA for blind & low vision visitors – These tours are given on the 1st Sunday of the month at 10:30 am. Pre-registration is not required for the Sunday tours unless a sighted guide or other access accommodation is needed. See Wednesday listing for details.

Access Notice: The City of Cambridge and Commission for Persons with Disabilities do not discriminate on the basis of disability. This **AccessLetter** newsletter is available in e-mail, large print and other alternative formats upon request. To add your name to our mailing list, to inquire about alternative formats, or for information about other auxiliary aids and services or reasonable modifications in policies and procedures, contact CCPD.

Cambridge City Council

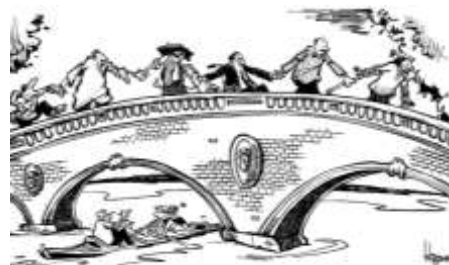
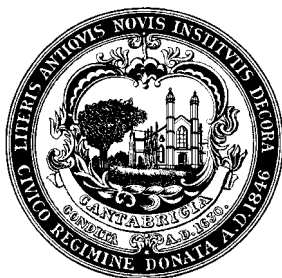
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AccessLetter is produced by the Cambridge Commission for Persons with Disabilities,
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